AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for performing wireless communication using a plurality of frequency channels defined in a specified frequency band, the method comprising:

detecting an error rate of each of a plurality of frequency ~~channels used by wireless communication~~ channel groups into which the plurality of frequency channels are divided, each of the frequency channel groups including frequency channels falling within a frequency range corresponding to each of the frequency channel groups, the frequency range having a bandwidth which is decided based on a bandwidth of each frequency channel of another wireless communication that performs a wireless communication using the specified frequency band;

determining whether the detected error rate is higher than a specific threshold value; and

suspending use of ~~a frequency channel whose error rate is determined to be higher than the specific threshold value~~ frequency channels of a frequency channel group whose error rate is higher than the specific threshold value.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~detecting an error rate of the frequency channel under suspension by trying performing wireless communication using the frequency channel under suspension; and~~

~~resuming use of the frequency channel under suspension when the detected error rate is lower than that of another frequency channel in use.~~

wherein said wireless communication is spread spectrum-frequency hopping communication which performs frequency hopping using the frequency channels.

3-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said wireless communication is performed by a master-slave system, said detecting and said determining are performed by a master, and said suspending includes notifying a slave of a suspension of use of ~~a frequency channel~~ the frequency channels of the frequency channel group whose error rate is determined to be higher than the specific threshold value by the master.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said wireless communication is spread spectrum-frequency hopping communication, and said suspending includes excluding the frequency ~~channel~~ channels of the frequency channel group whose error rate is determined to be higher than the specific threshold value, from a plurality of frequency channels targeted for frequency hopping.

7-8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A wireless communication apparatus for performing wireless communication using a plurality of frequency channels defined in a specified frequency band, the apparatus comprising:

a detecting unit configured to detect an error rate of each of a plurality of ~~frequency channels used by the wireless communication~~ frequency channel groups into which the frequency channels are divided, each of the frequency channel groups including frequency channels falling within a frequency range corresponding to each of the frequency channel groups, the frequency range having a bandwidth which is decided based on a bandwidth of each frequency channel of another wireless communication that performs a wireless communication using the specified frequency band;

a determining unit configured to determine whether the detected error rate is higher than a specific threshold value; and

a suspending unit configured to suspend use of ~~a frequency channel whose error rate is determined to be higher than the specific threshold value~~ frequency channels of a frequency channel group whose error rate is higher than the specific threshold value.

10. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication apparatus according to claim 9, ~~further comprising:~~

~~a detecting unit configured to detect an error rate of the frequency channel under suspension by trying performing wireless communication using the frequency channel under suspension; and~~

~~a resuming unit configured to resume use of the frequency channel under suspension when the detected error rate is lower than that of another frequency channel in use.~~

wherein said wireless communication is spread spectrum-frequency hopping communication which performs frequency hopping using the frequency channels.

11. (Currently Amended) The wireless communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said wireless communication is spread spectrum-frequency hopping communication, and said suspending unit includes a unit which excludes the frequency ~~channel~~ channels of the frequency channel group whose error rate is determined to be higher than the specific threshold value, from a plurality of frequency channels targeted for frequency hopping.

12. (Canceled)